SI.No.	Name of District	Estimated Cost (Rs. in crore)
1.	Gulbarga Banglore (Rural)	31.64
2.	Gulbarga (phase-ll)	11.01
3.	Bangalore Rural (phase-ll)	3.90
4.		36.74

(c) and (d) Ministry of Water Resources has approved the proposals (SI. No. 1 & 2) in phase I during 2004-05 at an estimated cost of Rs. 42.65 crore. The Central share of Rs. 4.42 crore for Bulbarga and Rs. 1.00 crore for Banglore Rural has been released to State Government of Karnataka during 2004-05. The projet proposal for Gulbarga (phase II) in Karnataka is under process in the Ministry of Water Resources. The project proposal for Banglore rural (Phase II) is being re-examined by CWC in consultation with the State to bring down the cost per hectare of additional potential within the eligible limit.

Linking of Rivers

225. SHRI RK. MAHESHWARI: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether several States are facing heavy floods with the onset of the Monsoon this year;

(b) if so, whether Government are considering to draw special strategy or action plan to get rid of the flood problem in the country; and

(c) whether solution of the flood problem is possible by linking all the rivers of the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER-RESOURCES (SHRI JAY PRAKASH NARAYAN YADAV): (a) Yes Sir.

(b) Flood throughout the world cannot be fully controlled. It is to be managed to the best of ability on technical merit of the problem from place to place. However, Flood Management being within the purview of States, the schemes for flood control are planned, funded and executed by the

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

State Governments. The role of Central Government is technical, catalytical and promotional in nature. UFA Government gave special emphasis on this issue in the National Common Minimum Programme.

Central Government, however, has also been initiating various measures for assisting the States in the management of floods. The Rashtriya Barh Ayog, set up by the Government of India in 1976 to look into flood problem and suggest remedial measures, submitted its report in 1980. The recommendations of the Rashtriya BarhAyog which formed the framework for flood management strategy in the country were formawred to the various State Governments for implementation. Several other expert committees were also constituted by the Government from time to time to study the problem relating to flood and its management, the recommendations of which were also sent to the respective State Governments for implementation. Ganga Flood Control Commission for Ganga Basin States constituted in 1972 prepared Comprehensive Plans for Flood Management for all the 23 river systems of Ganga. Likewise, Brahmaputra Board which started functioning at Guwahati in 1982 prepared Master Plans for Flood Management for Brahmaputra, Barak and its major tributaries. These plans were forwarded to concerned State Governments for implementation.

During 2004, the Government of India had constituted a Task Force for Flood Management/Erosion Control under the Chairmanship of Chairman, Central Water Commission with representatives of State Governments, various Central Ministries and experts as members to examine the problem of flood and erosion in Assam and neighbouring States, West Bengal, Bihar and Eastern Uttar Pradesh. The Task Force has inter alia recommended taking up of reservior projects as permanent/long term measures flood management.

The Government of India have been taking effective steps in this direction. An agreement was reached with Nepal for survey and investigation and preparation of Detailed Project Report for Sapta Koshi High Dam Multipurpose Project and Sun Koshi Storage Cum Diversion Scheme for which a Joint Project Office has already been opened in Nepal in August, 2004. This project has flood control as one of the major benefits. Nepal has also agreed for undertaking the joint feasibility study of Kamla and preliminary study of Bagmati Multipurpose Project to ascertain likely constratints in implementation of these projects so that the same could be appropriately addressed.

As regards North-East, the Master Plans prepared by Brahmaputra Board have emphasized that the flood problem in the Brahmaputra Valley can be solved satisfactorily and enduringly only after construction of large storage dams in the basin and that too in the upper part of the basin. Keeping this in view, investigations of two most promising project namely the Siang Dihang Dam Project and the Subansiri Dam Projects were pursued and project reports were prepared by the Brahmaputra Board. These projects which are now to be taken up in three stages each have since been transferred to National Hydro-electric Power Corporation (NHPC) for detailed investigation and implementation. Detailed Project Report for another major project namely Tipaimukh Multipurpose Project on river Barak has also been prepared which will inter alia have flood control benefits in the Barak Valley. The Government of India also approved implementation of Pagladiya Multipurpose of Project in Assam, which has flood control as a major benefit. In addition to the above, the Government of India has also been providing Central assistance to the State Governments to take up critical anti erosion/flood management works.

(c) Based on various studies conducted, National Water Development Agency (NWDA) has identified 30 links for preparing Feasibility Reports (FRs). NWDA has completed feasibility reports for 14 links under Peninsular Development Component and two links under Himalyan Rivers Development Component. The storages envisaged in the interlinking of rivers proposals of NWDA under National perspective Plan, by virtue of their capacities and diversion of flood water through link canals, will inter-alia provide flood modernisation benefits to some extent in the respective basins.

Excess Nitrate in Water

226. SHRI JANARDHAN POOJARY: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether a report by the Central Ground Water Board has revealed nitrate concentration in excess of the admissible limit in water in various parts of the country;

(b) if so, the details in this regard, State-wise;

(c) whether consumption of such contaminated water causes cancer or damages the nervous system;